

**MINUTES  
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
July 24, 2014  
9 a.m., MHS Auditorium  
Helena, Montana**

**Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present:** Crystal Wong Shors, Steve Lozar, Bob Brown, Jim Murry, Jim Utterback, Kent Kleinkopf, Tom Nygard, Janene Caywood, Ed Jasmin, Jude Sheppard, Ed Smith and George Dennison

**Excused Board members were:** Cliff Edwards, Shirley Groff, and Jim Court

**Staff present:** MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Administrative Assistant, Renee Podell; MHS Development Officer, Susan Near; MHS Museum Collections Manager, Amanda Streeter Trum; MHS State Historic Preservation Program Manager, Mark Baumler; MHS Publications Manager, Molly Holz; MHS Centralized Services Administrator, Denise King; MHS Outreach & Interpretation Manager, Kirby Lambert; MHS Research Center Manager, Molly Kruckenberg; MHS SHPO Intern, Chelsea Chamberlain

**Guests present:** Sharon Lincoln

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Crystal Wong Shors called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Jim Murry moved approval of the April 24, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ed Smith and carried unanimously.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Motion - Crystal Wong Shors**

Crystal reported on the many activities that take place here at MHS and encouraged members to attend when they can. She stated that the MHS volunteer luncheon is held in early spring and noted that any Board member can attend by letting Katie White know. She attended the luncheon this year and she commented that it was a very nice event. Crystal traveled to Fort Benton to give Jack Lepley the plaque given to him by the Board members commemorating his service on the MHS Board. Jack was very appreciative. Discussion was held on the employee appreciation picnic held at the Montana Club last night. Everyone had a great time. Bob Brown expressed how much Patty Dean's talk on the history of the Montana Club meant to everyone in attendance and asked that a card of thanks be sent to Patty.

**Bob Brown moved that the Director send a card of thanks to Patty Dean at the Montana Club. Tom Nygard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Bruce Whittenberg**

Bruce presented a synopsis of the history of MHS. The "Year of the 150s" continues and Bruce gave the highlights of events in the making. He reported that a fall release is planned for "*Montana's Charlie Russell, Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society*". A 2015 calendar and a post card book will also be marketed.

In June, Bruce traveled to Wilsall for the ceremonial reburial of the Anzick Child.

Bruce reminded the Board members that the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Montana History Conference will be held in Helena, September 18-20, 2014.

Bruce complimented Tom Cook on the excellent media coverage he has created across Montana and stated that Tom is working on broadening the reach particularly in Billings and throughout eastern Montana. Social media at MHS has become an important vehicle for expanding audiences.

The State Archives shelving project is complete and Bruce complimented everyone involved in this incredible endeavor.

Strategic themes and critical issues were highlighted by Bruce.

### **Marketing and Development – Motion - Susan Near**

Susan gave a recap of the Heritage Center schedule of gift-giving by donors. She also highlighted the success of the MHS June appeal.

Susan reported for membership because Rebecca was on vacation. MHS membership numbers are up again this year. She announced that Rebecca is planning a November membership drive.

Tom Cook was on vacation. Susan gave handouts of media transcripts that Tom had prepared for the Board members (handouts (7) made a permanent part of the record).

### **PROGRAM MANAGERS REPORTS**

#### **MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action – Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney**

Amanda Trum presented show & tell items. She showed the Board a basketball hat and a letterman jacket from Manhattan, Montana high school. She also showed off a recently purchased adult tricycle used at West Glacier Park in the 30's and 40's for delivering the U.S. mail.

#### **Deaccession Request**

Jennifer gave a list of thirteen items that are duplicate items from the Museum Program (handout made a permanent part of the record). The objects have been determined to better serve MHS if

they were made available for hands-on activities. The proposed method of disposal is to transfer the thirteen items to Outreach & Interpretation for educational purposes.

**George Dennison moved approval of the deaccession request. Jim Utterback seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**RESEARCH CENTER- Motions - Molly Kruckenberg**

Molly gave an explanation of Core Statistics for April – June, 2014 (handout made a permanent part of the record).

Molly explained that the sole-surviving donor of the Stan Lynde Collection has requested that 22 photographs of aerial coyote hunting in eastern Montana be deaccessed from the Collection (handout made a permanent part of the record).

**Deaccession of a portion of the Stan Lynde Collection.**

**Ed Jasmin moved that the deaccession of 22 photographs from the Stan Lynde Collection be deaccessed and returned to the Lynde Family. Jim Murry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**July, 2014 Deaccession List (handout made a permanent part of the record)**

**Ed Jasmin moved acceptance of the July, 2014 Deaccession List. Jim Utterback seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler**

Mark introduced the Sobotka educational intern, Chelsea Chamberlain. Chelsea presented a program outlining her study while interning at SHPO of the early history of the Montana State School in Boulder.

**OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION –Kirby Lambert**

History Conference brochures were given to each Board member (handout made a permanent part of the record). This year's conference will be held September 18 – 20 in Helena.

Kirby announced that updates were made to the historic Helena walking tour booklets by Ellen Baumler which includes local women's history highlights.

**PUBLICATIONS – Motion - Molly Holz**

Molly presented a letter from William Sebring (handout made a permanent part of the record). Mr. Sebring complimented the autumn 2012 edition of *Montana The Magazine of Western History* highlighting "A Century of James Penney's Main Street Department Stores in the Rocky Mountain West".

### **CENTRAL SERVICES – Denise King**

Denise discussed the importance of employees and Board members signing the MHS Code of Ethics.

She emphasized that the core statistics presented by Ms. Kruckenberg showed a 7% increase in visitors at the OGM and a 19% increase in visitors in the MHS building. Denise encouraged the Board members to be sure and stop into the store because there were lots of new items on display.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Government Relations-Bob Brown

Bob presented a copy of a congratulatory letter sent out to Legislators at the request of the Board (copy made a permanent part of the record). Committee members continue to make friends.

Donor Relations-Ed Jasmin

Ed reported Committee members have met with many good prospects. He complimented Martha Kohl on the way she presented the 2014 Heritage Keeper recipients information in the history conference pamphlet.

Governance Committee-Jim Murry, Janene Caywood, Kent Kleinkopf, and Steve Lozar

Jim Murry stated that the Committee members have requested that the officers on the current Board continue their service into this next year.

### **Board of Trustee Officers-1 year term-Motion**

Steve Lozar opened nominations for officers of the MHS Board of Trustees.

**Jim Utterback moved that the currently elected officers continue to serve a one-year term on the MHS Board of Trustees. He further moved that the members of the executive committee continue for another one-year term. Jim Murry announced that a unanimous ballot had been cast. George Dennison seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**Officers are:**

**President – Crystal Wong Shors**

**Vice President – Bob Brown**

**Secretary – Tom Nygard**

**Executive Committee: Tom Nygard, Steve Lozar, Crystal Wong Shors, Bob Brown, Jim Court and Kent Kleinkopf**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Discussion was held on Board packet materials. Board members electronically receive packet materials before each meeting. The following members have requested that a duplicate of

materials not be prepared for them because they can review and bring their own materials to the meeting: Ed Smith, Tom Nygard, Jude Sheppard, Janene Caywood and Jim Court.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Janene Caywood asked that the process of reviewing and selecting Heritage Keeper recipients be reviewed. She questioned that this task be left to a committee and wondered if the full Board should be looking at the applications. President Shors suggested that this would be a good time to ponder the process and asked the members of the Board to come back with ideas for the next meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEXT BOARD MEETING – October 23, 2014 - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Committee – 8:00 a.m.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

1:20 p.m.